

House Bill 719

By: Representatives Lindsey of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Holmes of the 61<sup>st</sup>, Wilkinson of the 52<sup>nd</sup>, and Ashe of the 56<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to local government,  
2 so as to change provisions relating to the maximum fines which may be imposed by  
3 municipal courts; to change provisions relating to the maximum fines which may be specified  
4 by municipalities exercising home rule powers; to specifically authorize municipalities to  
5 adopt ordinances specifying fines up to a certain maximum amount; to provide for such  
6 provisions to control over conflicting provisions of local laws; to provide for related matters;  
7 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to local government, is amended  
11 in Code Section 36-32-1, relating to establishment, operation, and jurisdiction of municipal  
12 courts, by striking subsection (c) and inserting in its place a new subsection to read as  
13 follows:

14 "(c) Each municipal court of this state, ~~unless otherwise provided~~ notwithstanding any  
15 contrary provision in the local law relating to a particular municipal court, shall be  
16 authorized to impose any punishment up to the maximums specified by general law,  
17 including the maximums specified in subparagraphs (a)(2)(B) and (a)(2)(C) of Code  
18 Section 36-35-6."

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 Said Title 36 is further amended in Code Section 36-35-6, relating to limitations on home  
21 rule powers of municipalities, by striking subparagraph (a)(2)(C) and inserting in its place  
22 a new subparagraph to read as follows:

23 "(C) Action providing for fines and forfeitures in excess of \$1,000.00 \$2,500.00;"

**SECTION 3.**

Said Title 36 is further amended in said Code Section 36-35-6 by adding at its end a new subsection (d) to read as follows:

"(d) Notwithstanding any lower limit in the local law relating to a particular municipal corporation, each municipal corporation is authorized to adopt ordinances punishable by fines of up to \$2,500.00, with the maximum fine to be expressed in each particular ordinance not to exceed \$2,500.00."

**SECTION 4.**

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.